

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W
-----007115 272128Z /70

P R 272105Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5074
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: INTERRUPTION OF PUBLICATION OF P.E.N. PRISONER
LISTS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1841

1. UNLIKE THE PATTERN OF THE PREVIOUS SIX WEEKS, THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR DID NOT ISSUE A FRIDAY PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL (PEN) DETAINEE LIST ON MARCH 17 OR ON MARCH 24.
2. WE HAD EXPECTED THAT THE PEN PRISONER LIST FOR CORDOBA PENITENTIARY WOULD BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY, AS THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS (FOWG) INFORMATION THAT A NUMBER OF DISAPPEARED U.S. HIGH INTEREST CASES HAD RECENTLY APPEARED AS PEN PRISONERS IN CORDOBA.
3. OUR ESTIMATE, BASED ON MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR DATA SHOWS A TOTAL 3,829 PRISONERS UNDER THE PEN AS OF
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MARCH 18, 1978. THE NAMES OF 2,993 OF THESE DETAINEES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE SIX PRISON LISTS ISSUED TO DATE. THUS, ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR STATISTICS, AT LEAST 836 PRISONERS STILL HAVE NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED.

4. A FOWG OFFICIAL EXPLAINED TO THE EMBASSY ON

MARCH 20 THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS PUBLISHED THE NAMES OF ALL PEN PRISONERS HELD IN "FEDERAL PENAL FACILITIES ". THE REMAINING PEN PRISONERS, ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, ARE HELD IN PROVINCIAL PRISONS WHICH ARE NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. (THE CORDOBA PRISONS ARE PROVINCIAL, NOT FEDERAL FACILITIES.) THE FOWG OFFICIAL DIPLOMATICALLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE NAMES OF THE DETAINEES IN PROVINCIAL PRISONS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED; BUT HE DID NOT WISH TO SPECULATE WHEN.

5. A SENIOR MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBASSY ON MARCH 27 THAT A FINAL LIST OF PEN PRISONERS HELD IN PROVINCIAL JAILS WULD BE RELEASED AS SOON AS IT WAS COMPLETED. THE TASK WAS COMPLICATED BY THE MANY SMALL PENAL FACILITIES INVOLVED THROUGHOUT ARGENTINA AND THE LARGE NUMBER OF PRISONERS INVOLVED. CASTRO

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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